

THE Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Former sports writer senses God's call

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — As a sports journalist and editor for 10 years, Norm Cannada had no idea a few years ago that he would wind up living and ministering in the struggling inner-city of Charleston, W.V. It was while serving on a mission trip in New York City that he and his wife Debbie realized God was calling them to live and minister among people many others had forgotten.

"I believe for the most part the church ignores the inner city," said Cannada, a church planter strategist in Charleston. "...But as far as living day to day, living among the people, there are not a lot of people who are willing to do that. I just fell in love with the whole concept of touching lives. If we lived somewhere else, we would never be part of the community."

The Cannadas are among the missionaries featured during the 2003 Week of Prayer for North American Missions on March 2-9, administered by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Atlanta. Coincidentally, it was the ministry of fellow Week of Prayer missionaries Taylor and Susan Field that God used to ignite a passion for the city in their own hearts.

After being called by God to enter the ministry in 1994, Norm was serving on a church staff in Statesville, N.C., when he and Debbie had the opportunity

who has been amazed over the past five years at how God has used all of her training as a special-education teacher and experience in ministry.

home. Rather than taking the usual approach of first reaching out to the people with ministries then beginning a church from that base, Norm decided to start a church that would minister to the community.

"We prayed and fasted. We believed God did not want us to go into debt for it," said Cannada. By March 2002, they had purchased a 9,500-square-foot, two-story building — with some help from NAMB, the West Virginia Baptist Convention, and the Florida Baptist Convention.

"It was a miracle itself," Cannada said, concerning the process of praying and waiting on God for the money to come in. One of the last-minute contributions was an anonymous donation of \$45,000.

Along with traditional evangelism tools of Backyard Bible Clubs, Vacation Bible Schools and a food pantry, Cannada has led his congregation to reach out to their community through a combination of church-based ministry and proactive "servant evangelism."

Everything is done "in the name of Jesus first, but under the name West Charleston Baptist Church," Norm said, realizing most people in the community were very familiar with a traditional church.



PAUSE FOR PRAYER — Missionaries Debbie (right) and Norm (center) Cannada pray for an 86-year-old woman who had recently fallen and broken her leg. The Cannadas are North American Mission Board (NAMB) church-planting missionaries in inner-city Charleston, W.V., and are supported by gifts to the Annie Armstrong Offering for North American Missions. (NAMB photo by Ken Touchton.)

nity to work with the Fields on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

"It was during that time that we knew God's call to the city. We just knew that that's where we were supposed to be, with inner-city people," said Debbie,

"God led us to an area that was considered the worst corner in Charleston," he said. "...There would be 15-20 drug dealers there all the time."

They established West Charleston Church in their own

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The Big Picture



• Norm Cannada is one 213 church-planting missionaries working to identify locations for new churches and enlist church planters and sponsoring churches.

• Although Cannada is classified as a church-planting missionary, his ministry-based evangelism work bears similarities to the 87 Baptist centers jointly funded by state conventions and NAMB.

• Southern Baptists have a goal of starting 2,300 churches in 2003. About 800 of NAMB's 5,204 missionaries are church-planter pastors.

ANNIE
ARMSTRONG
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Baptist Center brings Christ to reservations

The Big Picture



* Ron Goombi is one of 210 church and community ministries missionaries under NAMB appointment in the United States, Canada, and U.S. territories.

* The Omaha Baptist Center is one of 87 Baptist centers jointly funded by a state convention and NAMB. A total of 7,601 professions of faith were reported by Baptist Center missionaries from January to November of 2002.

* There are currently about 350 Native American churches and missions affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

OMAHA, Neb. — Alpha Goombi wanted to be the first Native American actress to win an Academy Award. Ron Goombi wanted to be a successful businessman. God had other plans.

Today Ron and Alpha Goombi (pronounced goom-BYE) use their talents in ministry in inner-city Omaha, Neb., and on three Indian reservations in Nebraska and South Dakota. Ron is the director of the Omaha Baptist Center and pastor of All Nations Church.

They are among the North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries featured during the Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 2-9.

As Native Americans, the Goombis say they have an opportunity to share the gospel with the varied ethnic groups in Omaha as well as on the reservations. Natives of Oklahoma, Ron is of Kiowa/Choctaw descent, and Alpha is Kiowa/Apache.

"Our background helps get our foot in the door, but beyond that, people watch us to make sure our Christian testimony is real," said Ron, who has been director since 1993.

Although Ron had accepted Christ as a child, Alpha did not accept Christ until age 27. Her family faced many of the same obstacles as Native Americans do today — sexual abuse, poverty, alcohol, and prejudice.

"I had a very painful life before my conversion, and I am able to share truthfully with people who are lost and hurting,"

she said. "I want to serve God because of what he's done in my life."

Her conversion marked a turning point in their marriage. She and Ron, whom she had met in college, began attending a mission church near their home in Omaha. Eventually, they participated in a revival on a reservation in South Dakota, and that's when Ron first heard God's call to the ministry.

"I didn't surrender to the ministry," said Ron. "I just answered God's call. There was so much need among Native American people in general, and I just felt the overwhelming responsibility to minister to multicultural people."

Their involvement with the Omaha Baptist Center began in 1988 when as students at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., they participated in a church-planting program in Omaha during summers and on weekends. After graduation in 1991, they moved to the city and started All Nations Church as an integral part of the center's ministry. Their calling was first as a couple, then as a family with their

three sons: Kurtis, age 24; Daniel, age 18; and Jonathan, age 9.

The Omaha Baptist Center ministers to its multicultural inner-city community through children's Bible clubs, after-school girls and boys clubs, tutoring, discipleship training and services for All Nations Church and a food pantry.

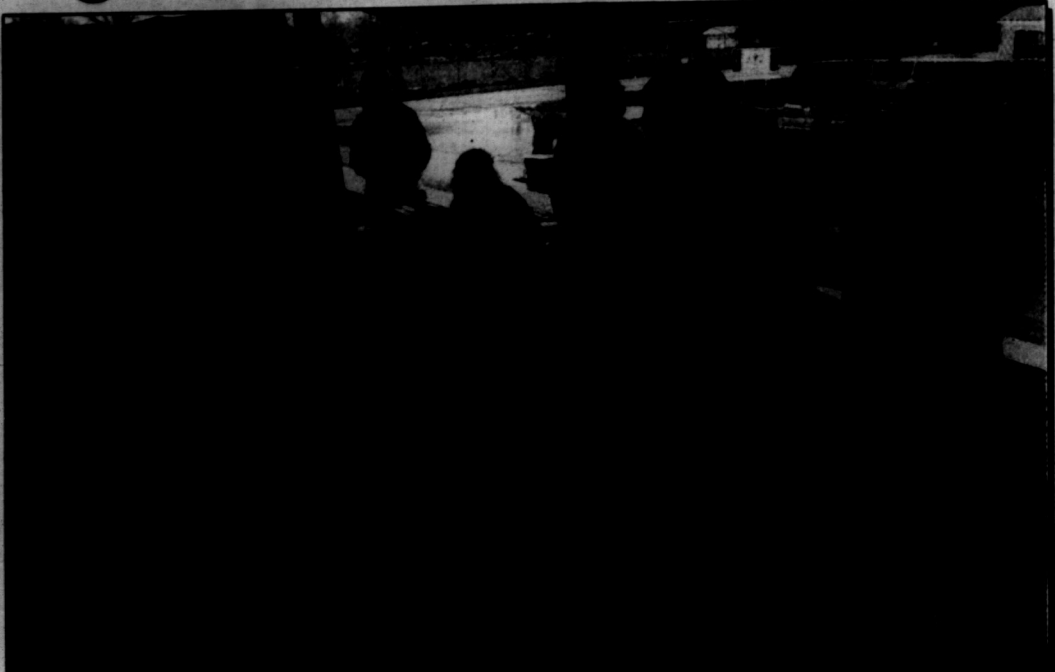
Alpha teaches a women's Sunday School class and is the church's worship leader. For the past two years, she has worked full-time as an Indian child welfare specialist.

The Goombis also coordinate associational volunteers, summer missionaries, and mission teams from across the United States.

"The ills of society are magnified on reservations because they are such small communities," Alpha said.

Southern Baptist work in Nebraska is few and far between, Ron noted. "We truly are a pioneer area. There are 40 Southern Baptist churches and missions in the eastern half of the state."

THE LITTLE ONES — Ron Goombi (second from right) shares the Gospel with Native American children during a Bible club at the Winnebago Indian Reservation near Sioux City, Iowa. Goombi, who serves as director of the Omaha Baptist Center, and his family conduct regular ministries on two reservations. Their ministry is supported by gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. (NAMB photo by Gibbs Frazier)



The Big Picture



* Taylor Field is one of 210 church and community ministries missionaries under NAMB appointment.

* Graffiti Baptist Center is one of 87 Baptist centers jointly funded by a state convention and NAMB. A total of 7,601 professions of faith were reported by Baptist Center missionaries from January to November of 2002.

* Susan Field is one of 231 North American missionaries in collegiate evangelism.

Missionary couple shares love for inner city work

NEW YORK — You might say Taylor and Susan Field's commitment to inner city missions was sealed with a kiss 23 years ago. That's when the couple got married, just a year

after both served as summer missionaries in New York.

About a year into their marriage, the Fields moved to Hong Kong where they served two years with the Southern Baptist

Foreign Mission Board, now the International Mission Board, teaching at a Baptist college. Then it was back to the U.S., this time on the west coast, where the Fields again served in inner city missions in San Francisco while Taylor earned a Ph.D. in biblical studies at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Ca.

The Fields are among the North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries featured during the 2003 Week of Prayer for North American Missions on March 2-9.

Taylor and Susan say they are privileged to share God's goodness in small ways in a city that

often seems larger than life. "Our motto has been the ministry of small things," Taylor said. "You don't have to do great things for God, just small things with great love."

As director of East Seventh Baptist Ministry, also called Graffiti, a ministry of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association and NAMB, Taylor oversees nearly 30 ministries aimed at meeting the physical and spiritual needs of families on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

Meanwhile, three days a week Susan takes a 40-minute subway ride northeast of the family's small Manhattan apartment to Columbia University, where she serves as the school's Baptist chaplain. One day a week she also leads the Baptist campus ministry at neighboring New York University and Barnard College.

Whether it's ministering to the homeless and poor through the Graffiti Baptist Center or mentoring some of the brightest minds on the campuses of the premiere academic institutions in the country, Taylor and Susan say they have learned that "weakness is the envelope for God's power."



TIME OUT FOR STUDY — Taylor Field (left) reads Scripture with long-time Graffiti Church member Adele Kiran during a midweek Bible study at the Graffiti Baptist Center in New York City. Graffiti Center is the nearest Southern Baptist church to Ground Zero, the plot of land where the World Trade Towers stood before being destroyed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The Fields are supported by gifts to the Annie Armstrong Offering for North American Missions. (NAMB photo by Gibbs Frazier)

Couple finds God's plans 'just awesome'

TOMBSTONE, Ariz. — About seven blocks east of the infamous OK Corral stands a small white building that for most passers-by would barely merit a passing glance, but for Tommy and Elizabeth Stevens the building which once housed a church is a symbol of God's miraculous provision.

The building serves as a home for Tommy and Elizabeth and the offices of Cochise Baptist Association, which

called Tommy as its associational missionary in 1997. It also has developed into a virtual bed and breakfast for more than 3,000 people from across the country, including hundreds of volunteers who have helped the association grow from just 15 churches and missions when they arrived to 45 congregations today.

"It is just awesome that God allows us to be a part of what he's doing out here,"

said Elizabeth, who serves as ministry coordinator for the association. "Somebody said there was no place dearer than Tombstone or Cochise County before we got out here," she added, "but we can't say that it's because we're out here that all these things are happening. This is God's timing for the area. There have been people who have planted a lot of seeds along the way."

The Stevenses are among the featured missionaries for the 2003 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 2-9.

They came to Arizona from Tennessee, where Tommy had been in ministry for many years as a pastor, licensed counselor in private practice, and earlier as a minister of music and other staff positions.

It was the combination of his ministry experience and counseling skills that prompted several friends to suggest he consider becoming a director of missions. Through a series of circumstances they were called to Southeastern Arizona.

They chose to live in Tombstone because it was centrally located in the association. The idea of renovating the church arose only after they found the building available and began to see what God might have in mind for making use of Elizabeth's gift of hospitality.

Help came from within the association and around the country. Volunteers renovated the main sanctuary into two bedrooms, two baths, and a large living/dining room.

The basement houses the associational offices, a conference room, two more bedrooms, a laundry room, and a full bath.

"I thought we'd have two or three teams a year, never dreaming what God was going to do," said Liz. "This building may not have made it as a church, but it is a place of ministry."



HEART FOR CHILDREN — Tommy (adult at left) and Elizabeth (adult at right) Stevens visit an orphanage in Naco, Mexico, that the Cochise Baptist Association helps support. The Stevens also are personally involved through sponsorship of individual children. Tommy Stevens serves as the missionary for Cochise Association and is supported by gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. (NAMB photo by James Dotson)

San Diegan uses ministry as church planting base

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — In a region where the weather is always beautiful and there are no shortage of ways to enjoy it, church attendance and Christian commitment often rank low on the list of priorities, according to church planter strategist Don Conley.

He believes the answer lies in new churches, where people can find a freshstart in Christ, close to home, in an environment free of whatever baggage of tradition that might have kept them from church in the past.

"From the influence of my parents I developed a compassion for people," Conley said. "When I see a community that doesn't have a church, or the existing church is starting to decline, I want to find out why and see if we can help them get re-interested or start a church on our own."

Conley and his wife Barbra are among the missionaries featured during the Week of Prayer for North American Missions on March 2-9.

The San Diego pastor has actually had a desire to reach churches since he first entered the ministry in 1975. He began his current pastorate at Encanto Baptist Church in 1981.

"I wanted to grow this church to 300," he said of Encanto, where he began his current pastorate in 1981. They never reached that point, but since 1993 they have launched eight new churches. Conley's success

prompted the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the California Southern Baptist Convention to appoint him to spearhead all African American church planting efforts throughout the area beginning in 1999.

"I'd like to see a lot of churches started out of this church, and use this as a model for how it can be done," he said.

"What I'm attempting to do is show that you can still have a full church program going and still start other churches without missing a beat."

He believes people often don't go to church because churches have not made an effort to meet their perceived needs. "I began talking to people and found out they would go to a church that seemed like it would care for

them, Conley said, "and I had a desire to reach people."

The church also is the home of the San Diego School of Theology, part of the NAMB's Contextual Leadership Development ministry.



RING OF PRAYER — Don Conley (center), pastor of Encanto Southern Baptist Church in San Diego and a church planting missionary for the North American Mission Board (NAMB), leads a prayer time during a Sunday morning worship service, Encanto, who is supported by gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, has planted eight new congregations in the San Diego area since 1993. (NAMB photo by James Dotson)

The Big Picture



* Tommy Stevens is one of 169 NAMB missionaries appointed as associational directors of missions across the United States, Canada and U.S. territories. Another 732 directors of missions are funded by local churches and state conventions.

* Church planting is a key responsibility for the director of missions. Southern Baptists have a goal of starting 2,300 churches in 2003.

* The association is a critical link in the Southern Baptist cooperative missions effort. They assist with training, fellowship among area pastors, and coordination of volunteer missions partnerships.

The Big Picture



* Don Conley is one of 16 African American church planter strategists located throughout the United States and Canada. They are among 213 church-planting missionaries working to identify locations for new churches and enlist church planters and sponsoring churches.

* Southern Baptists have a goal of starting 2,300 churches in 2003. About 800 of NAMB's 5,204 missionaries are church-planter pastors.

Campus minister sees tomorrow's leaders

BOULDER, Colo. — When Bobby Pruett strolls across the sprawling campus of Colorado University in Boulder, he has his thoughts on what kind of values North America will treasure in 10 years. Thoughts about what kind of government leaders will be shaping the laws and what mothers and fathers will be teaching their children — and how many believers are attending area churches.

As director of campus ministries at this 26,000-student university, Pruett knows that the answers to many of those questions will be determined by the leaders of tomorrow who now share the same sidewalks with him. That's why he has devoted the past 15 years to bringing Christ to this international campus.

Pruett and his wife Gayle are among the North American Mission Board missionaries featured during the 2003 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 2-9.

Boulder, which snuggles up against the front range of the Rocky Mountains about 20 miles north of Denver, offers numerous distractions — both good and bad — for students who choose the setting for their college years.

Pruett has placed himself into that setting to help point many of those students to a lifelong commitment to Christ and to instill a Christian worldview that is nonexistent in most academic settings.



PRAYER BREAK — Bobby Pruett (center), a campus minister at the University of Colorado in Boulder, and Zach Meese (left), director and assistant director of the Christian Challenge Baptist campus ministry at the University of Colorado, pray with Brian Adler (second from right) a volunteer staff member of Christian Challenge, and student Justin Hunter (right). (NAMB photo by Gibbs Frazeur)

In many ways Pruett is searching for diamonds in the rough: students who are seeking answers to life questions and who can be mentored in the Christian faith. It's not something that can be dealt with in an evening Bible study or two; once a relationship is established, it can easily stretch into regular discipling sessions throughout the students' four-year stay on campus.

"The university campus, whether in Boulder or elsewhere, is the greatest mission field and the greatest opportunity we have to influence our future culture in North America," he explains.

"In public universities much of what is being taught does not recognize God, much less give Him honor and glory. It is critical that we have campus ministers to counter what the

students are fed in the classrooms." That, coupled with the belief that most Christian students face the danger of leaving their faith when they don't have a support group, bolsters Pruett's commitment to the academic world.

Add that to the responsibility of raising part of his own financial support as a Mission Service Corps missionary and Pruett's job is more than full time.

Retiree banks on success of World Changers program

DALLAS — As a former vice president in the banking industry, Walter Mickels knows a good investment. For the past four years his investments in the lives of young people participating in the North American Mission Board (NAMB) World Changers program have been yielding eternal dividends.

Mickels is a NAMB national missionary who coordinates World Changers projects throughout the United States and Canada. He retired after 27 years in the banking industry in 1996 and began serving full time with NAMB two years later. Mickels and his wife Sharon are among the North

American Mission Board missionaries featured during the Week of Prayer for North American Missions on March 2-9.

World Changers unites the heart and hand in Christian action by rehabilitating substandard housing, but the goal of the program is to develop middle school, high school and college student participants into "lifestyle missionaries for a lifetime," Mickels said.

"Our philosophy at World Changers is to change the world of the participant. Our goal is to expose students to missions in the hope that God will take them, prick their hearts and then draw them to a higher calling in the realm of missions," he said.

"I am convinced that many students are not 'on mission' because we have not taught them to be on mission. ... Once we expose them to it and they experience the benefit of giving of themselves, then God begins to call those students out to a higher level of commitment to missions," he said.

Those who benefit from the World Changers projects are amazed that young people from other states would devote time to renovate their homes, Mickels said.

Sharing the Gospel through World Changers is a responsibility that Sharon Mickels takes seriously. While she is not involved directly in project leadership, she said volunteering at the work sites has strengthened her commitment to missions.

"I went on a trip to Louisiana several years ago and watched to see what was going on during the projects. I thought, 'I've been missing all of this.' Our schedules are different, but every chance I get, I go," Sharon said.



WORLD CHANGERS PREP — Walter Mickels (right) talks with Barbara Webb, volunteer coordinator at Mission Arlington in Arlington, Texas. The ministry was the site of a weekend World Changers preparation project. Mickels' ministry is supported by gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. (NAMB photo by Gibbs Frazeur)

The Big Picture

ANNIE ARMSTRONG
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* There are more than 16 million college students on 3,000+ campuses in the United States and Canada, including 700,000 internationals.

* The Pruett's serve under the Mission Service Corps program, in which NAMB provides endorsement, encouragement, and other assistance for missionaries who raise their own financial support. The ministry makes possible the ministry of 1,924 missionaries across the United States, Canada and U.S. territories.

The Big Picture

ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

* Walter Mickels is one of three national missionaries who assist North American Mission Board staff in coordinating World Changers projects.

* During the summer of 2002 a total of 23,083 participants working on 1,701 work sites in 87 projects in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico.

STATE CHANGES



Robertson

First Church, Madison, has called Jason Robertson as minister of youth and college. Robertson has served at First Church, Cleveland, and Friendship Church, Sturgis. He will graduate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in May.

Scott Savell, a native of Belzoni and former pastor of Tinsley Church, Tinsley, has been appointed chaplain by the Southern Baptist North



Savall

American Mission Board and commissioned as a first lieutenant in the United States Air Force Reserve. Scott and his wife, Susanne, reside in Louisville, Kentucky.

Moselle Memorial Church, Moselle, called Keith Thompson as pastor on Feb. 19. Thompson previously served at Mt. Zion Church, Taylorsville. He currently attends New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS



Khalaf

Jad Jamal Khalaf, McComb, graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity in Evangelistic Church Growth degree in December. Khalaf, an evangelist, is a member of the Conference of Mississippi Baptist Evangelists.

The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary student enlistment office will sponsor a Preview Weekend for prospective seminary students on March 6-8. Registration/check-in will begin at 4:30 p.m. at River City Café. Students must pre-register by Feb. 28. The cost for the weekend is \$25 per person. Those interested can receive registration forms by calling 1-800-NOBTS-01, ext. 3303.

Fellowship to honor slain physician Myers

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Members of the Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship (BMDF) will remember Martha Myers in a memorial service during their 26th annual meeting March 27-30 in Birmingham.

Myers, one of three Southern Baptist International Mission Board workers killed by a lone gunman Dec. 30 at the Baptist hospital in Jibla, Yemen, was a physician and a BMDF member.

"BMDF was greatly blessed by having a member like Dr. Myers," James D. Williams, executive director of the fellowship, said in a release Feb. 18. "She will be missed very, very much. Her words and actions were tremendous examples of how a Christian should live. She will always be remembered by her BMDF colleagues because of her willingness to give everything to follow the call of Christ."

With more than 1,800 members, BMDF is open to any physician, dentist, medical or dental student, or other health-care professional who desires to associate with the organization based on their commitment to Jesus Christ and desire to grow spiritually and support the mission of the organization.

The Memphis-based group seeks to provide a professional fellowship of Baptist physicians and dentists for the purpose of enhancing their Christian growth, church involvement and support of Christian missions.



In addition to the memorial service for Myers, the meeting — with the theme Look at the Nations and Be Utterly Amazed — will include addresses from International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin, Women's Missionary Union Executive Director Wanda Lee, and Calvin Miller professor of preaching at Samford University Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham.

Paul Eshleman, director of the Jesus Film Project, will speak to the group about the progress of the film, which has been translated into more than 700 languages. The film has 64 million people in 20 countries in Africa alone, and has helped lead more than 1.6 million people to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord.

For more information, contact the Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship at (888) 275-8485 or visit www.bmdf.org.

MYERS REMEMBERED — Martha Myers (left), one of three Southern Baptist workers slain in Yemen Dec. 30, often made trips into the Yemen countryside to provide medical care and build relationships. Myers will be honored at the annual meeting of the Baptist Medical Dental Fellowship March 27-30 in Birmingham. (BP photo)

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MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SLAYDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, SLAYDEN, Miss. (Marshall Association) is seeking an interim Music/Worship leader. Please contact the church office at (662) 252-4559.

PIANIST NEEDED AT FIRST BAPTIST Church of Byram. Call (601) 372-3156.

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, Hernando, Miss. is currently seeking a full-time Youth Minister. Send resumes to Personnel Ministry Team, Parkway Baptist Church, 50 North Parkway, Hernando, MS 38632. For more information call (662) 429-6045.

JASPER COUNTY BAPTIST Association is seeking a Director of Missions. The position is part-time, working w/22 churches. For more information, call (601) 764-2471 or email: jcba@bayspringstel.net. Or to apply, please send resume to: Missions Committee, JCBA, P.O. Box 385, Bay Springs, MS 39422-0385, postmarked no later than 2/28/03.

DRUMMER NEEDED FOR JACKSON metro area SBC church. Call (601) 946-9406 for details.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Hattiesburg, Miss. is currently seeking a bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resumes c/o music search, Calvary Baptist Church, 3139 Oak Grove Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

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Trailblazing evangelist recalled in exhibit

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A unique personal collection of correspondence, promotional materials, sermons, photographs, motion pictures, and audio and

city-wide crusades meant. This collection is so good because it documents an element of Baptist life not just in text format but visually through photographs, motion picture film, and recordings."

The papers span the period from 1938-1997 and represent more than 50 years of Martin's evangelistic ministry both in the United States and South America. Martin is considered by many of his peers to be one of the most energetic and successful evangelists of his time.

The collection contains hundreds of photographs and recordings in different formats, from paper and Mylar tape to reel-to-reel tape and audiocassette tape, said Howard Gallimore, archival assistant at the library and archives.

The photographs illustrate the crusades, revivals, and soul-winning campaigns conducted by Martin primarily in the South and Southwest, and the film and sound recordings illuminate the holdings with action and sound from the great crusades conducted in assembly



EVEN THE OVERLOOKED — During World War II, innovative Southern Baptist evangelist Eddie Martin spoke to hundreds of U.S. military troops, including black regiments that were often overlooked by other evangelists and church groups. (BP photo)



WHATEVER IT TAKES — Southern Baptist evangelist Eddie Martin (right) was committed to employing whatever methods necessary to reach people with the Gospel. He often traveled to schools and performed magic shows for the students while pointing them to Jesus. (BP photo)

video recordings from the ministry of the late Southern Baptist evangelist Eddie Martin has recently opened at the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives in Nashville.

"This collection is significant for us because we don't have anything else like it," said Bill Sumners, director of the library and archives located in Nashville. "It tells a story about a segment of Southern Baptist life, of what revival means, of what

halls, football fields, stadiums, and tents. During every crusade and revival he preached, he devoted the hours from 4 p.m. until the time of the service, usually 7 p.m., to personal visitation and soul-winning.

Martin employed an interesting method at the beginning of his ministry to get himself introduced as an evangelist. He asked his fellow classmates to write to their home pastors and tell them that the most promising Christian evangelist was available to lead a revival in their church. He received more invitations than he could fill.

Martin packed coliseums and stadiums and spoke to football teams, students, prisoners, factory workers, and coal miners sites. During World War II he spoke to black Army regiments when others overlooked them.

Known as the "Soul-Winning Evangelist," Martin worked with more than 1,250 pastors in 1,500 crusades across the United States.

The inventory of the Eddie Martin Papers is available online at <http://www.sbhla.org/downloads/809.pdf>. The collection is open to everyone.

Church Facilities & Furnishings Workshop

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Church Facilities

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March 18, 2003

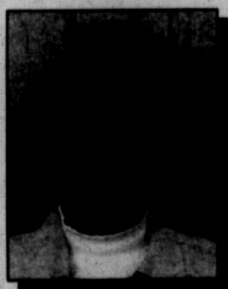
8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Broadmoor Baptist Church
1531 Highland Colony Parkway
Madison, Mississippi

The conference is for pastors, staff members, building committees, long-range planning committees, business administrators and maintenance/property personnel. For more information, please call the Pastor/Leadership Development Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800 in Jackson.



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Crime Prevention &
Security Specialist



Keith Gordon
Church Building
Services
MBCB



Gary Nicholson
Church Architecture
Dept. - LifeWay

Survey: parents don't like sex ed programs

WASHINGTON (BP) — A sizable majority of American parents oppose the "comprehensive sex education" curricula used widely in public schools, according to a new survey.

In a poll done for a pro-family coalition, Zogby International found as much as 75% of parents disapproved of sex-ed training that includes instructions on the use of condoms. Meanwhile, 74% of parents approved of character education that endorses remaining sexually abstinent until marriage.

The survey asked more than 1,200 parents to respond to descriptions of different sex-ed guidelines. Some were from curricula promoting contraceptive use in addition to abstinence, such as those by the Centers for Disease Control, a division of the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS).

Respondents also gave their opinions of abstinence-only guidelines from the Medical Institute for Sexual Health (MISH).

The highest level of disagreement came on the CDC material, while 61% also disapproved or strongly disapproved of the SIECUS guidelines. Nearly three-fourths of parents approved of the MISH material.

"What parents really want is for their children to be taught an abstinence-centered education," said Genevieve Wood of the Family Research Council (FRC) in a written release. "Parents play a major role in whether or not their teen will choose to have sex. Study after study shows that when teenagers perceive that their parents strongly disapprove of them having sex, they are more likely to delay sexual activity."

The poll found parents' disapproval of sex information escalated when it involves their children. Only 46% of parents opposed high-school students being taught they can obtain contraceptives without parental approval, but the opposition increased to 70% when the question was personalized to their children.

Zogby performed the survey in January for the Coalition for Adolescent Sexual Health, a Washington-based group. Members of the coalition are FRC, Concerned Women for America, Focus on the Family, National Abstinence Clearinghouse, Eagle Forum, Christian Coalition, and Traditional Values Coalition.

The coalition called for Congress to approve the \$135 million in federal funds proposed by President Bush for abstinence education in 2003. Recent General Accounting Office research estimated "comprehensive sex educa-

tion" received at least \$219 million from the federal government in 1998.

"We have spent billions of tax dollars promoting the 'safe-sex' myth," Focus on the Family President James Dobson said in a written statement. "In return, we continue to see numerous epidemics that plague our nation, as well as an alarming erosion of values. Congress should consider the will of parents over the agendas of organizations that profit from teen sex and commit to funding programs that promote abstinence until marriage."

The SIECUS guidelines recommend teaching about masturbation and intercourse to children five to eight years old. They also suggest children ages nine to 12 be taught "[h]omosexual love relationships can be as satisfying as heterosexual relationships." Seventy-one percent of par-

ents disapproved of the teaching of that concept.

The survey results may be found on the Internet at www.whatparentsthink.com.

OBITUARY

James H. Fairchild, 85, died Jan. 27 due to heart failure. Internment was held Jan. 29 at a private family service at Arlington Park Cemetery.

Fairchild pastored First Church, Louisville, and a number of churches in Arkansas.

He is pre-deceased by his wife of 50 years, Frances Fairchild, and son, Jimmy Fairchild. Surviving are his son, David Fairchild, daughters, Renae Zuckerman, Treba Douglas, and LaRisa Hutton, all of Atlanta; sister, Mildred Allen, Lilburn, and five grandchildren.

All honor and glory



Participants in the 2003 Christian Performing Arts Festival on February 22 at Ridgecrest Church, Madison, close out the two day event with an advanced dramatic presentation giving all honor and glory to Jesus Christ. More than 400 Mississippi Baptists participated in the annual event funded by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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OABZZBE OB LYB AGNE

SGE GM DZNHBA; MGN

YB YHLY PDZDLBE HIE

NBEBBxBE YDZ FBGFAB.

AKCB GIB: ZDQLT-BDSYL

Clue: A=L

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HOMECOMINGS & REVIVAL DATES

Beacon, Hattiesburg: March 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Valton Douglas, evangelist; Roger Blackwell, music; all are welcome.

Goss, Columbia: March 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sonny Adkins, Director of Evangelism, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, speaking; Byron Long, Emmanuel Church, Columbia, music; Mark McArthur, pastor.

Iuka, Iuka: March 16-19; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Lewis, Southaven, evangelist; Don Chandler, New Albany, worship.

Coat, Magee: March 3-31; every Monday, 7 p.m.; Tony Monk, David Shepard, Terry Long, Chad Grayson, and Ricky Moore, speakers; William A. McWilliams, pastor.

Arkadelphia, Bailey: March 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Wayne Edwards, Lauderdale Association Director of Missions, preaching; Ken Patterson, 15th Avenue Church, Meridian, music; John R. Koch, pastor.

Calvary, New Augusta: March 9; Luther Turner Memorial Day; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.; bring a covered dish.

Interstate, Shaw: March 2-5; Sunday 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Charles Smith Jr., Duncan, evangelist; Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale, music evangelist; Robert Haney, pastor.

First, Terry: March 1-2; 150th anniversary; Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, high attendance Sunday School, 9:15 a.m., worship, 10:30 a.m., dinner on grounds; John Pace, pastor; for more information, call (601) 878-5735.

SBC Exec. Committee sets CP emphasis

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — An added focus on the Cooperative Program (CP) has been incorporated into the proposed Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) budget for the 2003-04 fiscal year.

The SBC Executive Committee, during its Feb. 17-18 meeting in Nashville, approved a recommendation that \$250,000 be utilized "to fund the enhancement of CP education at the six [SBC] seminaries" if the SBC CP Allocation Budget exceeds its \$182,323,110 goal.

The CP, also known as CP Missions, was launched in 1925 as Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the SBC.

CP Missions is a key support channel for Southern Baptists' 10,000-plus missionaries around the world and across North America, for the convention's ethics and religious liberty advocacy and for theological education for future ministers and missionaries provided by the six seminaries.

The overall budget will be

presented to messengers for approval during the June 2003 SBC annual meeting in Phoenix.

The budget, as recommended by the Executive Committee, will continue to allocate:

- 50% of receipts to the International Mission Board.
- 22.79% to the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

- 21.64% to the seminaries. Specifically, according to the seminary enrollment formula, Southwestern Seminary would receive 5.3%; Southern Seminary, 4.33%; New Orleans Seminary, 4.25%; Southeastern Seminary, 4.09%; Golden Gate Seminary, 1.9%; and Midwestern Seminary, 1.54%.

- 1.49% to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.
- 3.32% to the Executive Committee, encompassing the work of the EC between SBC annual meetings as well as the costs for each annual meeting.

- .76% to the Annuity Board for its ministry to retired ministers whose annu-

ities were underfunded during their careers.

- .24% for the SBC Historical Library and Archives.

Also during the Executive Committee meeting:

- NAMB President Robert E. Reccord reported that NAMB was withdrawing its request to spin off the FamilyNet cable TV network as a for-profit entity. FamilyNet has received a top-50 tier channel on the EchoStar satellite network on a nonprofit basis, giving FamilyNet an added potential audience of 8 million viewers.

Reccord said NAMB will be exploring opportunities with other SBC entities for new ways of representing Southern Baptists in homes across the country.

- Cedarville University in Ohio was approved as a secondary exhibitor on a space-available basis for SBC annual meetings, in conjunction with its new partnership with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio launched last fall.

- A 2.3% increase was approved for the Executive

Committee staff salary structure, effective Oct. 1.

- A resolution of appreciation was presented to O.W. "Dub" Eford Jr., who retires March 31 after 14 years as executive-director-treasurer of the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention. Another resolution was issued for Charles W. Sullivan, who retires May 15 but could not be in attendance, for his 12 years as executive director-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

- Colorado pastor Tobey Williams, Georgia pastor Dannie Williams, and Illinois director of missions Lanny Faulkner were elected to the 2002-03 SBC Committee on Nominations.

- A continuing \$38,000 fee was approved for the SBC Pastors' Conference meeting hall and facilities costs in conjunction with the 2003 and 2004 SBC annual meetings.

- Notice was given that Barry C. McCarty will again serve as chief parliamentarian during the June 2003 SBC annual meeting in Phoenix.

BWA leader dismayed by funding cut proposal

CAMPBELLSVILLE, Ky. (ABP and BP) — The proposal by Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) leaders to reduce funding to the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) "could not come at a worse time in world history," declared Denton Lotz, general secretary for the coalition of more than 200 Baptist denominational groups from across the globe.

Lotz, who was in Kentucky to speak at Campbellsville University, said he was "really sad and disappointed" by the SBC Executive Committee's action since BWA leaders "have bent over backwards to accommodate the concerns of our Southern Baptist brothers and sisters."

The SBC proposal would redirect \$125,000 of \$425,000 originally budgeted for BWA to a proposed Southern Baptist initiative entitled Kingdom Relationships designed to bring together "like-minded Christian bodies."

The proposal comes amid complaints from Southern Baptist leaders that the BWA is considering accepting the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) as a member body. While the SBC report acknowledges that the decision about CBF membership "rests solely with the BWA," it says the SBC "has much more than a passing interest in the ultimate decision to be made by the BWA."

"We have included SBC leaders in our top leadership positions and decision-making bodies," Lotz said.

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee,

serves as a BWA vice president. Lotz noted that one of the roles of BWA officers is raising funds for the alliance.

Lotz, himself is a member of a Southern Baptist congregation, said he is disappointed that Southern Baptist leaders are directing the effort to decrease BWA's funding.

"In partially defunding the BWA, this SBC decision actually is reducing funding for our brothers and sisters around the world who are suffering from religious persecution, lack of human rights, and generally all the prejudices of a minority movement in a clash of civilizations," Lotz emphasized.

"If ever Baptists needed unity and to work together, it is now. How will our brothers and sisters in the 'Two-Thirds World' react who love the BWA and would love to support us but are in poverty conditions?"

Lotz said he fears the message being sent by SBC leaders to Baptists around the world is: "We do not need you. We will do it on our own and form our own alliances and networking."

Citing the SBC proposal to strengthen relationships with "like-minded Christians," Lotz asked, "If Baptists in the Baptist World Alliance are not 'like-minded Christians,' who are we then? Who are Baptists in Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, India, Brazil, Australia, Japan, Korea? Are we not all 'like-minded Christians?'"

Despite the proposed funding cut, Lotz said: "We love Southern Baptists and want them to participate in all of the life of the Baptist World Alliance. Baptists

of the world need you and want you to continue to support us to the fullest extent."

The Executive Committee's decision to cut the funds was recommended by a special SBC task force on the BWA. Members of that committee were: Chapman, chairman; Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources; Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board; Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary; former SBC president Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist

Church in Del City, Okla.; Dallas-area pastor Gary Smith, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee; retired Texas appellate judge Paul Pressler of Houston, an architect of the SBC's so-called "conservative resurgence;" Houston attorney Joe Reynolds; and Bob Sorrell, a staff member of Bellevue Church in suburban Memphis.

Messengers to the SBC's annual meeting in June must ratify the decision to cut BWA funds, but approval is almost assured.



FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Praying That Pleases God

I Chronicles 4:9-10; I Kings 3:5, 7-10

By Lori Clendinning

Did you ever wish for something when you were a child? A new bicycle, perhaps? How hard did you work at getting your wish to come true? After asking your parents or grandparents and counting the accumulated wealth in your piggy bank, did you ever take it to the next step? Wished on a star? Tossed a coin into a well? Prayed to God? Children can be very creative when it comes to asking for their heart's desires.

A sign of maturity is when their asking for things becomes less about themselves and more about others. Their wishes and desires begin to fall in line with that which wise and loving parents would have them concentrate: selflessness, kindness, joy, and peace, to name a few.

This month's lessons focus on prayer that pleases our

heavenly Father. Based on selected passages from the Old and New Testaments, the lessons will investigate five elements of prayer found in I Chronicles 4:9-10 concerning the prayer of Jabez.

- These elements include:
- Prayer that pleases God
 - Our prayers for enlarging God's kingdom
 - God's power and presence
 - His deliverance
 - The assurance of His answer

Prayer that pleases God is prayer that comes from a pure heart. God delights in blessing those who pray with godly motives. This is evident from the prayers offered up by two men, found in this week's passages: Jabez, I Chronicles 4:9-10, and Solomon, I Kings 3:5, 7-10. Both men prayed for and received blessings from God.



Clendinning

As a descendant of the tribe of Judah, Jabez's prayer to the God of Israel was succinct: "Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my border, and that thy hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from harm, that it may not pain me!" Many people have misinterpreted this prayer of Jabez, as popularized by Bruce Wilkinson's same titled book, to be some form of prosperity theology that encourages self-centered prayers for material gain. Within today's society, many people do not believe in prayer at all, or may seek to use the prayer of Jabez for selfish reasons and personal gain, as if it were something akin to a mystical chant or a genie's lamp. For others, prayer is little more than possessing a positive attitude or thinking good thoughts.

What should Christians learn from Jabez's life? Scripture tells us that Jabez's mother suffered great pain during his birth. According to the Broadman Bible Commentary, this took place in an age when the curse of a name could, in

popular views, only be offset by the magical application of another name. Jabez's mother reversed the last two consonants of "jabez," a word that translates "pain," "depression," and "he who hurries."

With his name as a pun for pain, Jabez prayed out of a deep need. This was not a prayer offered as a quick fix to his problems, nor was it some magic concoction of words designed to open God's treasure chest of blessings. Jabez's prayer was sincere. He came to God empty-handed, asking for blessing and protection, and believing that all of life was in God's hands.

Walter Brueggeman, professor of Old Testament theology at Columbia Theological Seminary, wrote, "The prayer is not an opportunistic chance for profit, but the relocation of life in the governance of God."

Likewise, Solomon's prayer in I Kings 3 revealed humble subservience to God. The young king asked God for help as he undertook his duties, "Give thy servant therefore an understanding mind to govern thy people, that I may discern between good

and evil; for who is able to govern this thy good people?"

Solomon might have made selfish or even vengeful requests, but his first thoughts were of his responsibilities to God's people. He tells God of his inadequacies in managing the kingdom and requests that God grant him practical wisdom for the difficult cases that he would soon face as judge. In order to discern between good and evil, Solomon would need a listening and obedient heart, ready to show God's people what was right and just.

Both Solomon and Jabez prayed from sincere, humble hearts. Both men pleased God and received blessings from him. As Christians, we always ought to offer prayers to God from grateful hearts with the spirit of humility. Let's begin today to pray to the Lord for listening and obedient hearts, for discernment to judge between right and wrong, and for the strength to do what is right.

Clendinning is a member of First Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Beware of Improper Ambition

I Kings 1:5-10, 49-52; 2:21-24

By Harold Simmons

Introduction: It is necessary for us to adjust our thinking a bit as we move from a study of John (New Testament) to a study of I Kings (Old Testament). We are moving from the time of Roman rule back to a time when Israel was ruled by one of their own.

John's gospel gives us the story of the Messiah and His ministry on earth. I Kings appears to be the history of the chosen people. It is more than that; it is the history of God's dealings with the chosen people. Our focus should not be on the historical material alone, but on the interaction of God with his people.

Selfish Ambition (I Kings 1:5-10). In the opening verses of the chapter, we are given a descrip-

tion of the aging king and his physical condition. David's deteriorated condition raised speculation by the general population and within the palace as to who the next king would be. Just as in our day, with the announcement that the aging pope is almost at the place that he cannot carry out his duties, there comes speculation on who could be the next pope. The question comes: "Who's in line?" "Who is the legal heir to the throne?" This is a question that should be asked. Because David had six sons by six different wives while he lived in Hebron, and he had thirteen other sons by two more wives and numerous concubines after he moved to Jerusalem. Adonijah is the fourth son of David and was born in Hebron while David was king only of



Simmons

Judah. He assumed that because of his birth order he would be selected and "put himself forward" as king before any announcement. Adonijah's selfish ambition did not take into account what God had determined. It is this selfish ambition, not just ambition, that is

Adonijah's downfall. Having ambition is useful to God's glory but not selfish ambition.

Red Flags (I Kings 1: 49-52). After Adonijah and his supporters had finished a sacrifice and feast of celebration, they hear a commotion from within the city. Again Adonijah assumes the wrong thing for he believes that the announcement has come that he is king. A son of Abiathar gives out the news that Solomon has been anointed as king. This frightened everyone in attendance because they knew that the practice of the kings of the near east was to put to death any who could be a threat.

Adonijah saw red flags and fled to the Tabernacle and took hold of the horns of the altar as a place of refuge from any who would seek his life. Of course his actions were reported to Solomon. In turn, Solomon sent word to Adonijah that if he would give up his claim to the throne and live honorably, he would live.

God gives us red flags to make sure that we seek to honor him with our ambitions and use them to achieve his purposes.

Stubborn Ambition (I Kings 2:21-24). Adonijah had been given a warning and an opportunity to live out his life as a loyal subject of king Solomon, but he just would not leave it alone. After all, he was the oldest surviving son of David. He was older and more experienced than Solomon. He had the support of some of his brothers and many outstanding leaders. Adonijah went to Bathsheba and requested that she speak to Solomon for him. He asked that Abishag be given him as a wife. Abishag was a

part of the harem of David. (There are some who believe that she was only a nurse, but much is made of the fact that she was selected because she was a virgin and very beautiful. The scripture adds that David had no sexual relations with her.) Solomon understood the request as a ploy to gain the throne. The conquering king had control of the harem. If Adonijah had Abishag, he could lay claim to the throne. In 2:15 Adonijah's true motives are laid bare by his own statement: "The kingdom was mine..." He also made an insincere statement that God had given the kingdom to Solomon. He stubbornly clung to his ambition of being king. This cost him his life.

There is nothing wrong with ambition. Ambition must be kept in control and must be constantly evaluated to make sure that it is directed toward living out God's purposes for us.

Simmons is the pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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